

REMARKS

Claims 10, 11, 13, and 16-18 are currently pending and presented for examination.

Response to Rejections Under Section 103:

Claims 10, 11, 13, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Johnson (6788980) in view of Brandt et al. (6377993). Applicant has amended claim 10 as supported at least by paragraphs 8 and 18, and figure 1 of the originally filed specification. Applicant has amended claim 10 to claim a first communication path and a second communication path, “wherein the first firewall secures transmissions on the first communication path **but not** on the second communication path, and the second firewall secures transmissions on the second communication path **but not** on the first communication path.”

In contrast, Brandt teaches a communication path 33 that runs through both firewalls 55(a) and 55(b), where **both** firewall 55(a) and firewall 55(b) secure transmissions on communication path 33. Similarly, Brandt teaches a communication path 88 that also runs through both firewalls 55(a) and 55(b), and again, **both** firewall 55(a) and firewall 55(b) secure transmissions on communication path 88. Thus, the firewall configuration taught by Brandt does not teach Applicant’s firewall configuration, and therefore the combination of Johnson and Brandt does not teach Applicant’s claim 10. Applicant respectfully requests the 35 USC 103 rejection of claim 10, and claims 11, 13, and 16-18, based on the combination of Johnson and Brandt, be withdrawn.

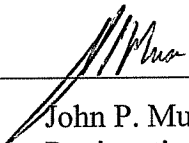
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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including fees for additional claims and terminal disclaimer fee, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/8/08

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